



Individual Report - Spring 2015 for CSCI 688-01 22265 Stochastic Optimization (Frans Schalekamp)

Arts & Sciences Student Course Evaluations Spring 2015

Project Audience 14

Responses Received 12

Response Ratio 85.71%

Creation Date Wed, May 20, 2015

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Computer Science (CSCI) Summary

Question	This Course				This Instructor				This Evaluation Form			
	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation	Mean	Median	Response Count	Standard Deviation
Were expectations made clear by the instructor in assignments and test?	4.58	5.00	12	0.51	4.58	5.00	12	0.51	4.00	4.00	523	1.05
Were tests & assignments given representative of materials?	4.17	4.50	12	1.03	4.17	4.50	12	1.03	4.15	4.00	523	0.95
Was grading fair and consistent?	4.83	5.00	12	0.39	4.83	5.00	12	0.39	3.99	4.00	523	1.05
Were helpful comments made in evaluating tests and graded work?	4.58	5.00	12	0.67	4.58	5.00	12	0.67	3.61	4.00	522	1.15
Was the instructor receptive to questions and approachable for help?	4.75	5.00	12	0.62	4.75	5.00	12	0.62	4.11	4.00	522	1.05
How well was the instructor prepared for class?	4.67	5.00	12	0.65	4.67	5.00	12	0.65	4.31	5.00	523	0.91
How well did the instructor know the subject material?	4.75	5.00	12	0.45	4.75	5.00	12	0.45	4.53	5.00	523	0.74
Rate the usefulness of the text.	3.00	2.50	12	1.41	3.00	2.50	12	1.41	3.47	4.00	516	1.17
Rate course difficulty compared to other W&M courses.	3.67	4.00	12	0.98	3.67	4.00	12	0.98	3.50	4.00	522	0.88
How would you rate this instructor's overall teaching effectiveness?	4.50	5.00	12	0.80	4.50	5.00	12	0.80	3.87	4.00	521	1.07
Overall	4.35	-	-	0.96	4.35	-	-	-	3.95	-	-	-

Were expectations made clear by the instructor in assignments and test?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	0	0.00%
Good	4	5	41.67%
Excellent	5	7	58.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.51

Were tests & assignments given representative of materials?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	1	8.33%
Average	3	2	16.67%
Good	4	3	25.00%
Excellent	5	6	50.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.17
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-1.03

Was grading fair and consistent?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	0	0.00%
Good	4	2	16.67%
Excellent	5	10	83.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.83
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.39

Were helpful comments made in evaluating tests and graded work?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	1	8.33%
Good	4	3	25.00%
Excellent	5	8	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.58
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.67

Was the instructor receptive to questions and approachable for help?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	1	8.33%
Good	4	1	8.33%
Excellent	5	10	83.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.62

How well was the instructor prepared for class?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	1	8.33%
Good	4	2	16.67%
Excellent	5	9	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.65

How well did the instructor know the subject material?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Fair	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	0	0.00%
Good	4	3	25.00%
Excellent	5	9	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.45

Rate the usefulness of the text.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	1	8.33%
Fair	2	5	41.67%
Average	3	2	16.67%
Good	4	1	8.33%
Excellent	5	3	25.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	3.00
Median	2.50
Standard Deviation	+/-1.41

Rate course difficulty compared to other W&M courses.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Easiest	1	0	0.00%
Easy	2	2	16.67%
Average	3	2	16.67%
Difficult	4	6	50.00%
Most Difficult	5	2	16.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	3.67
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.98

How would you rate this instructor's overall teaching effectiveness?

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Poor	1	0	0.00%
Below Average	2	0	0.00%
Average	3	2	16.67%
Above Average	4	2	16.67%
Excellent	5	8	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	12
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.80

Please comment on the outstanding strengths/weaknesses of the instructor and the course.

Students
I found Frans to be engaging and interesting. He made the material accessible and tangible, which I found to be very helpful. I would recommend him.
The text was only good after you have intuition, it was a nightmare trying to learn from it.
As hard as the midterm was, I finally realized what we were doing in the class. Would've been better had we planned for it sooner.
He's really good at explaining very technical mathematical concepts accurately but without too many details, and giving us an idea of how to apply these concepts.
He's very helpful at helping you think a concept through in office hours.
Frans is really a great teacher. Too bad, we are losing him from the program :(
Professor Schalekamp is truly exceptional. His devotion to his students and passion for the material shines through. His ability to break down complex topics into simple and easy-to-follow steps is extraordinary. To be honest, there really aren't enough words nor phrases to summarize how incredible he is as a professor. Students are lucky to have someone like him teaching their class!
The book's questions were sometimes difficult to work with. In the future, it may help if the instructor clarifies some of the questions when the assignment is given. Other than that, the course has been great and the professor is wonderful.
The instructor is obviously very proficient in the material, to a point where communicating this particular subject to the students level proved difficult. It was not helped much with the layout and notation in the text.
Frans is a great professor, and his class was always enjoyable. The midterm was challenging, but he was a fair grader on it. There

was one homework assignment that took a really long time to complete, and that could have been planned better (giving us more time or cutting out a couple of the problems in advance). Also the textbook is awful, though I don't really know if there exists a better textbook out there on this subject material. Overall, I really enjoyed this class.

Frans did an excellent job of both motivating our course topic with surprising applications and presenting the theory that underlies them. But more than this, Frans encourages his students and makes them feel valued in ways that are too often neglected. He does so much for us, and we're very grateful.